

Reflections on Government, and, India.

What is the underlying force in maintaining the more enduring human institutions? Is it not that

a long term undertakings require stability to be brought to a successful end?

The purpose of many of the most important human institutions is to provide such stability. As examples the stability needed to raise children calls for the institution of marriage, the stability needed to reap where you have sown and cultivated calls for ownership and leasing of real property, the stability needed for manufacture and distribution has given rise to such institutions as banks, and their credit. Government has as one of its primary functions the maintenance of stability for institutions that provide stability for long term undertakings.

As a consequence of these facts stable government plays a rôle as important to welfare as agriculture and medicine, and is, I suspect, as much involved in the growth of populations as in agricultural or medical science. Certainly agricultural and medical science can be applied only as long as government is stable and favorable. In those countries where government is in a stable equilibrium thanks to the cooperation of the governed, advances in medicine and agriculture and technology appear to be the ^{more direct} causes of welfare and the growth of population.

Now what happens when one people supplies to another both "A" ^{people "B"} governmental stability and the scientific knowledge that permits population growth? The population increases whether this stability is given in the name of Empire or Point Four. And it will continue to increase up to the capacity or tolerance of the givers to keep on giving.

Unless the receiving population learns how both to govern and to help itself it merely remains at the mercy of those who supply the ^{my} skill and the knowledge that make population growth both possible and inevitable. One of three courses independence, starvation or continued dependence. With starvation come the bitterest recrimination and indignation. Continuing dependence also causes resentment and increasing dependence and fear.

(over)

If we can't find programs that help India and Pakistan explicitly to become independent, and certainly independent of us, then I think they had best be left to their own primary problem of learning to rule and educate themselves.